

## Message Text

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44

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 031000Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4255

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T 1820

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, JO, YE, US

SUBJECT: NORTH YEMEN SITUATION

REF: AMMAN 5066

1. BELIEVE YAR MINAGR ABD AL-QUDDUS AL-WAZIR GAVE KING HUSSEIN ACCURATE EXPOSITION OF COMMAND COUNCIL CHAIRMAN HAMDIS VIEWS ON MILITARY SITUATION AND HIS DESIRE FOR MORE JORDANIAN HELP. QUICK GOJ RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS YARG REQUESTS NATURALLY ENCOURAGE HAMDI TO TRY FOR MORE AND TO USE GOJ CHANNEL TO URGE QUICKER RESPONSE FROM USG AND SAG.

2. SPECIFIC REQUESTS WE HAVE OUTSTANDING ARE THOSE MADE TO ME BY HAMDI AUGUST 12 FOR THIRTY JEEPS FOR 106 RECOILLESS RIFLES FUNDED BY ABU DHABI (FMS CASE UAA AND FOR 30 THOUSAND AP MINES, 15-20 THOUSAND AT MINES, AND UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF UNDERWATER MINES. AS REPORTED, HAMDI STATED THAT HE COULD PAY FOR JEEPS IF NECESSARY. WE BELIEVE HAMDI COULD ALSO FIND FUNDS FOR MINES, POSSIBLY FROM WHAT WE UNDERSTAND IS SIX MILLION SAUDI RIYAL GRANT TO STRENGTHEN BAB AL-MANDEB POSITIONS UNDER SUPERVISION OF THREE JORDANIAN ENGINEER OFFICERS. WHETHER OR NOT GOJ PRIMIN RAISES THIS, I WOULD HOPE WE COULD GIVE HAMDI RESPONSE IN NEAR FUTURE ON COST AND AVAILABILITY AS I HAVE HAD TWO

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REMINDERS FROM HAMDI AND ONE FROM PRIMIN AYN. JORDANIAN

AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD ME THAT GOJ WOULD LIKE TO SELL YARG  
OLDER NON-US ORIGIN MINES FROM ITS WAR RESERVES. POSSIBLY  
GOJ MAY BE ASKING US FOR REPLACEMENTS FOR THESE.

3. BELIEVE MINAGR, AS POLITICAL CONSERVATIVE, IS TAKING  
HARDER LINE AGAINST PRIMIN AYNi THAN IN FACT DOES HAMDI.  
LATTER IS OF COURSE FULLY ALIVE TO DANGER OF IRAQI-SUPPORTED  
BAATHISTS WITH WHOM AYNi HAS LONG HAD TIES. HAMDI ALSO  
AWARE DANGER POSED BY OVERWEENING AMBITION OF AYNi'S  
BROTHER-IN-LAW SINAN ABU LUHUM WHO PROVIDES POWERFUL  
SUPPORT FOR AYNi. WE NEVERTHELESS BELIEVE TYAT HAMDI  
FINDS AYNi'S PRESENCE USEFUL AS SYMBOL OF MODERNIZATION,  
WHICH IS KEYNOTE OF HAMDI'S REGIME, AND AS EXPERIENCED  
POLITICIAN WHO CAN HANDLE DAY-TO-DAY AFFAIRS OF GOVERNMENT.  
WE SUSPECT AYNi WILL BE KEPT IN OFFICE, AT LEAST FOR  
IMMEDIATE FUTURE, ALTHOUGH HAMDI WILL KEEP CAREFUL  
EYE ON HIM. AYNi WE SUSPECT WILL CONTINUE HIS RECENT  
CAMPAIGN TO BURNISH HIS "MODERATE STATESMAN" IMAGE  
AND WILL AVOID CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH RADICAL ELEMENTS.  
WHILE THERE ARE SEVERAL SCHEMES TO RESTORE CIVILIAN  
PRESIDENCY OR REPUBLICAN COUNCIL, PERHAPS BY SEPTEMBER  
26 REVOLUTION DAY, EVERYONE EXPECTS THAT HAMDI WILL  
RETAIN REAL POWER EITHER AS "CIVILIAN" HEAD OF STATE  
OR AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

4. ARMS POLICY IS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO HAMDI'S POSITION  
OF CONTROL. HE HAS STAKED HIS REPUTATION ON HIS ABILITY  
TO OBTAIN ADEQUATE ARMS FROM WEST TO REPLACE OLD WORLD  
WAR 11 RUSSIAN EQUIPMENT/YAR FORCES NOW HAVE, CONCOMMIT-  
ANTLY ELININATING RUSSIAN ADVISORY TEAM. TO DATE, WITH  
EXCEPTION JORDANIAN RESPONSE, RESULTS HAVE BEEN MEAGER.  
LEFTIST ELEMENTS AND HIS POLITICAL ENEMIES ARE USING  
THIS "AMMUNITION" AGAINST HIM. THIS SITUATION, IN  
ADDITION TO FEELINGS OF VULNERABILITY AGAINST MODERN  
PDRY FORCES, HAVE LED TO HIS REPEATED URGINGS TO  
USG AND SAG TO TAKE SOME CONCRETE ACTIONS OR HE WOULD HAVE  
TO RESPOND RELUCTANTLY TO GENERALIZED SOVIET OFFER TO  
PROVIDE MORE ARMS.

5. IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT WHILE HAMDI SEEMS IN FULL  
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CONTROL OF MILITARY, HE DOES NOT HAVE NONOPOLY OF  
POWER WITH COUNTRY. CONSEQUENTLY, HE IS PRACTICING  
SAME BALANCING ACT AMONG VARIOUS POLITICAL ELEMENTS  
(EXCEPT RADICAL LEFTISTS) AS WAS USED BY EX-PRESIDENT  
IRYANI, WITH DIFFERENCE THAT HAMDI CAN  
THREATEN TO USE MILITARY MUSCLE SELECTIVELY.  
NEWTON

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